

QA-35

Mary Jo Bostic Farm  
Sudlersville  
Private

18th century

This house, often cited as an example of the "telescope" plan, has evolved through a relatively complex series of additions and alterations. At least four distinct periods of construction can be identified. The most significant portion of the house is the original 1 1/2 story hall-parlor dwelling house that now forms the center section of the enlarged building. This is believed to be the earliest surviving log dwelling house in the county. Features of particular interest include the dovetailed log plank construction of the walls and the extremely rare beaded riven clapboards that originally covered the exterior walls of the 18th century dwelling.

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Mary Jo Bostic farm

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

East side of Md. Route 313 2 1/2 miles north of Sudlersville

CITY, TOWN

Sudlersville

☒ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Queen Anne's

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☐ OCCUPIED☒ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☐ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ RELIGIOUS☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ MILITARY☒ OTHER: Vacant**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mary Jo Bostic

Telephone #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

P. O. Box 212

CITY, TOWN

Sudlersville

☐ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21668

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Queen Anne's County Courthouse

Liber #: TSP 34

Folio #: 451-53

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland 21617

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Mary Jo Bostic farm is located on the east side of Maryland Route 313 approximately 2 1/2 miles north of Sudlersville. The house is sited in a small grove of trees surrounded by open farmland which stretches eastward to Unicorn Branch. There are several late 19th and 20th century barns and farm buildings to the north and east of the house.

The house has evolved through a series of additions to its present "telescope" form. The original section consists of the center portion of the present house, and probably dates to the second half of the 18th century. Additions and alterations were made in three separate periods during the 19th century. In recent years the north wing and much of the original house were badly damaged in a fire. Since then, the early flooring has been stripped from the house, as well as some early trim and most of the doors. The house is now open to the weather, and is deteriorating rapidly.

The original house is of log plank construction, one-and-one-half stories high and three

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.1 DESCRIPTION

bays wide, with a steep gable roof and a flush brick chimney on the north gable wall. The fenestration has changed somewhat over the years, and it is now difficult to determine precisely what is original. Apparently the principal entrance was located in the center of the west facade, flanked by six-over-six windows. A single six-over-six dormer window is located near the center of the facade on the second floor. The north gable has been covered by a small addition, but the connecting door to the west of the chimney on the first floor appears to be an original opening, and would have been an exterior door before the wing was built. On the east facade, there was a door in the center bay and a window in the north bay, with a single six-over-six dormer in the center on the second floor. The south gable has also been covered by later additions, but some evidence remains of the original openings. At present, there is a door in the center of the gable wall on each floor, allowing access to the later additions to the south. The first floor door was cut in later, but may have replaced an original window. The door on the second floor has also been cut in, but the mortise holes remain from

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.2 DESCRIPTION

an original window opening that measured approximately 30 inches wide and 38 to 40 inches high. The exterior doors on both the east and west facade have been blocked up and covered over, and all first floor windows were refitted with two-over-two sash in the late 19th century.

The log plank walls are laid with dovetail corner notching on a continuous brick foundation. The logs are  $3\frac{1}{2}$  to 4 inches thick and 11 to 14 inches wide. Where chinking has survived, it consists of riven pieces of wood with mud daubing. Furring strips have been nailed to the exterior walls and the log plank construction is now concealed behind asbestos shingle siding. Original riven clapboard siding remains on the south gable wall, where it was covered up by the first addition. Although riven clapboards were a common building material in the 18th century, used as both siding and roofing, surviving examples are quite rare in this part of Maryland. This particular example is especially unusual, as the clapboards have a fine beaded edge. They average four feet in length, and have tapered feather edge joints at each end. They are nailed

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.3 DESCRIPTION

in place with wrought nails. The roof is covered with wood shingles, but these were badly damaged in the fire, and are heavily weathered. A plain box cornice extends across both facades, and beaded and tapered rakeboards remain on the north gable.

The interior plan has apparently always consisted of a single room on the first floor, while the second floor was originally divided into two rooms by a vertical beaded board partition. This partition was nailed to the face of one rafter pair and collar beam with wrought nails, and was later sawn off just below the plaster ceiling and removed. The first floor has been heavily scorched by the fire, and is littered with heavy rugs and household debris. The fireplace is located on the center of the north wall, with a door to the north wing to the left and an enclosed winder stair to the right. The chimney is constructed against the interior face of the north wall, but does not interrupt the log planks. The chimney breast was apparently boxed in with vertical beaded boards, but these are only visible from the second floor, where they are nailed to the floor joists with wrought nails. Most of the interior plaster remains in place, and is

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.4 DESCRIPTION

applied against wide split lathing secured with wrought nails. A simple chairrail encircles the first floor room, but no other trim remains.

The second floor is relatively bare, and is partially open to the weather where the roof burned through at the north end. A very small fireplace remains on the north gable, with a small closet to the left. This had a small door with H-L hinges and was plastered inside.

The roof is of common rafter construction, 45 degrees in pitch. The rafters are riven, not hewn or sawn, and rest on a flat false plate supported by the floor joists, which are notched over the top plates. Each rafter pair is joined at the ridge with a pegged half-lap joint, and is reinforced with a light, riven collar that is half-dovetailed and pegged. Between each rafter pair is a lighter pair of rafters that do not meet at the ridge, but are terminated just above the collar beam, which is nailed on with two or three wrought nails. These are apparently intended to give added support for the plastered ceiling.

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.5 DESCRIPTION

The first addition was made to the south gable wall of the original house, and was of standard heavy frame construction. It was also one-and-one-half stories high, duplicating the roof height and pitch of the earlier house. There was one room on each floor, each heated by a flush brick chimney on the center of the south wall. Apparently this addition was made in the second quarter of the 19th century, as machine nails were used both in the framing and to secure the riven lath to the studs. Wrought, T-headed nails were used for the flooring, however, implying that nails of this type must have persisted for particular uses after the appearance of machine nails. The mixture of man-made and machine nails combined with the use of split lathing may suggest a date as early as 1815, and probably no later than 1840.

Very little remains of the early interior in this section of the house. Scars in the plaster suggest that there was a built-in cupboard to the right of the fireplace on the first floor, and a stairway remains along the east wall to the left of the fireplace. One feature of interest that has survived is what appears to be a 19th century root



## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.6 DESCRIPTION

cellar immediately in front of the first floor fireplace. This consists of a shallow rectangular hole dug in the ground below the floor and lined with machine sawn boards nailed together with machine nails. This is the first example of a storage hole of this type found in Queen Anne's County, but probably corresponds to the root cellars commonly found in Tidewater archeological investigations.

The second addition was made to the north gable of the original house. It is of frame construction, and may actually be contemporary to, or even predate the south addition. It was heavily damaged in the fire, however, and accurate dating is difficult if not impossible. It is one story high, with only one room on the first floor and a crudely finished loft above. A 20th century shed covers the east facade, but the remaining two walls are exposed. There is a door in the south bay on the west facade, with a window to the left of the door. A small window is located to the right of the chimney in the upper gable of the north wall. The chimney is flush, and the brick chimney back is exposed and stuccoed for the first five feet above ground level. The early

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.7 DESCRIPTION

horizontal weatherboards have been covered with asbestos shingles.

The interior of the first floor was renovated in the early 20th century and served as a kitchen. Most of the remaining fabric dates to that period. The fireplace was blocked and fitted for a wood cook stove, and a cupboard was installed in the alcove to the left. A steep ladder-stair to the loft is located in a closet to the right of the fireplace.

The final renovation and addition was made to the south end of the house in the latter half of the 19th century. The earlier story-and-a-half wing was extended one more room to the south and was raised to a full two stories. A cellar was constructed under the southernmost part of the house, and the earlier fireplaces were blocked, allowing wood stoves to be installed in the south rooms. The enlarged south wing thus became the dominant section of the house, and only the architectural evidence visible inside remains to explain the complicated evolution to its present appearance.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The original house on the Mary Jo Bostic farm is probably the earliest surviving log dwelling house in Queen Anne's County. Documentary sources clearly demonstrate that log construction was relatively common here throughout the 18th and early 19th century, but few examples have survived. This building is especially interesting because of several unusual construction features. Of particular interest are the riven framing members and the beaded, riven clapboards in the 18th century house, and the early 19th century root cellar below the south addition. Of more general interest is the opportunity to study a house that has undergone a complex yet clearly discernible evolution over a long period of time. The deteriorated condition of the building allows ready examination of all of the critical parts of the house, and it is unfortunate that

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 8.1 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

the very condition which allows thorough study  
will also result in the eventual destruction of the  
building.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Orlando Ridout V, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Queen Anne's County Historical Society

DATE

12/13/78

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Centreville

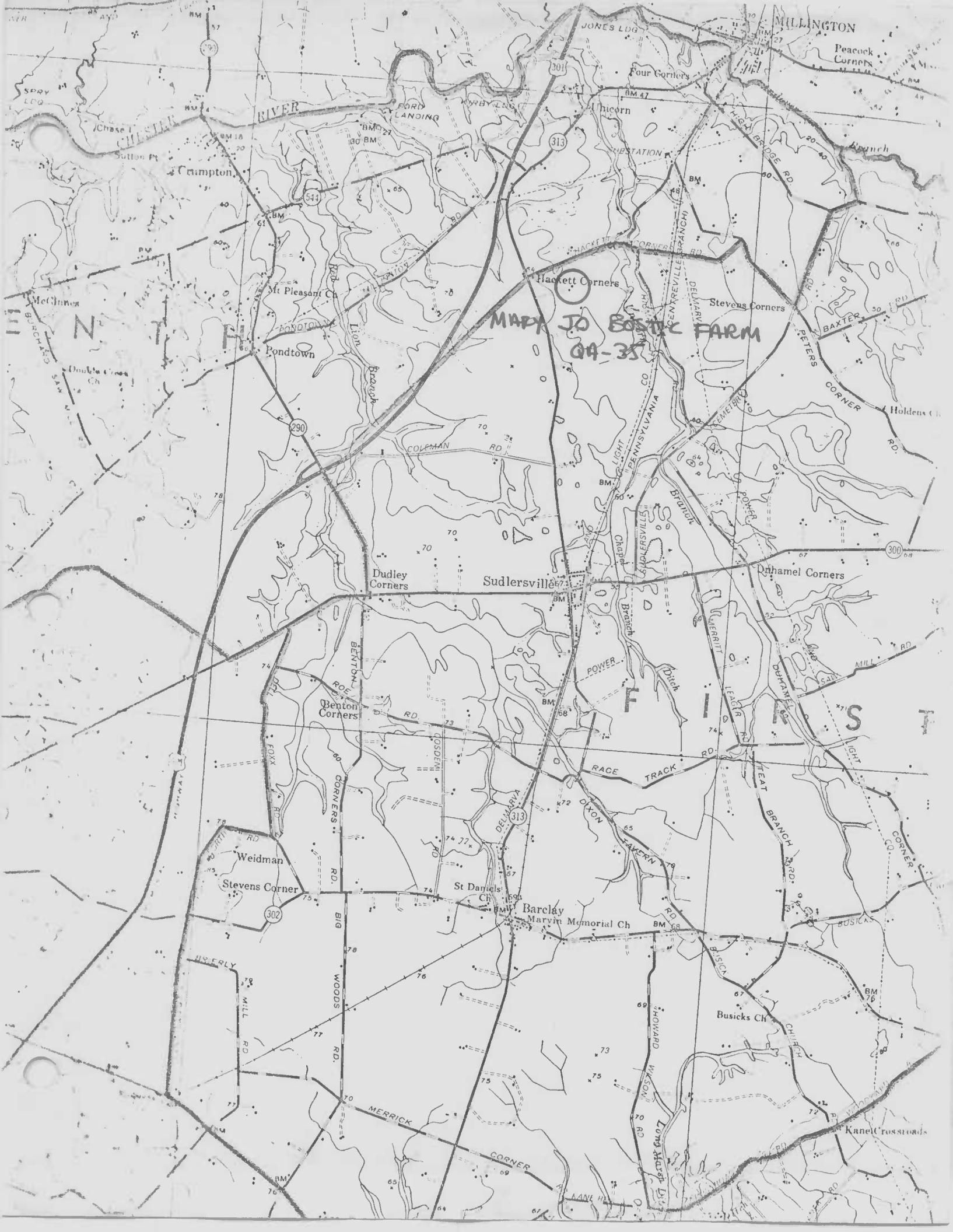
STATE

Maryland 21617

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438





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May Jo Bostic farm

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(N. of Sudlersville)